

# THE PINARD

Newsletter of the Canadian  
Association of Midwives

## 31<sup>ST</sup> TRIENNIAL ICM CONGRESS

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 2 • SEPTEMBER 2017

**4200**  
MIDWIVES  
**112**  
FROM COUNTRIES

**JOIN TOGETHER IN  
TORONTO!**

31<sup>ST</sup> ICM Triennial Congress  
MARCH FOR  
MIDWIVES

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# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



In 2011, the Canadian Association of Midwives put forth a bid to host the 2017 Triennial Congress of the International Confederation of Midwives. I was there in Durban, South Africa, as we made an enthusiastic presentation to the ICM Council delegates. We promised to make the 31st Triennial Congress a congress of the Americas and that we would work hard for the coming six years to fundraise to bring as many midwives from under-resourced countries as we possibly could to Canada.

And now, the Congress is over! It was a spectacular event. A record-breaking attendance of 4200 midwives from over 100 countries. Five days of hundreds of presentations. A march of close to 3000 midwives through the streets of Toronto. Speeches by both the Minister of Health, Jane Philpott, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, Celina Caesar-Chavannes. CAM and its members supported 20 midwives from under-resourced countries to attend the Congress, and the CAM Global program supported another 15 midwives. I want to extend a special thank you to the Host Country Planning Committee, including chair Anne Wilson, for all of their spectacular work as volunteers over the past six years.

After every ICM, I am exhausted, but deeply inspired and motivated by the work I do. As Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Midwives for the past seven years, I have had a front row seat to the blossoming of midwifery in Canada. Through my work, I have met many of CAM's members and I am always deeply humbled by the work you do every day on behalf of the women, trans people, men, children, and families of Canada.



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Three members of the Host Country Planning Committee; Joan-Margaret Laine, Anne Wilson and Joanna Nemrava with CAM Executive Committee treasurer Jane Erdman.

There is one element of this Congress that I want to particularly highlight and that is the distinct presence of Indigenous voices at this Congress. Not only was there an unprecedented amount of Indigenous content within the scientific program itself, the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives and the Canadian Association of Midwives signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding, helping to guide our relationship into the future. NACM and CAM also used this conference to leverage political support for Indigenous midwifery, with the Minister of Health announcing \$6 million in funding for Indigenous midwifery during the Congress itself. These are huge achievements that I am honoured to be a part of and I hope will herald continuing significant change in how midwifery is rolled out in Canada.

This Congress showed the world that Canadian midwives and the Canadian Model of Midwifery Care are exemplary. We can see that the marginalization of the profession in Canada is shifting, as our voices are being heard more and more. But as I write this, I realize just how much more work we have ahead of us, to truly make access to midwifery universal across Canada. And I look forward to working with you all as we move forward!

ICM VIDEO CONTENT: To view videos of the Toronto ICM congress, click here: <https://canadianmidwives.org/2017/07/31/videos-toronto-2017-icm-congress/>

ICM PHOTOS: To view photos of ICM congress, click here: <https://canadianmidwives.org/2017/07/13/toronto-2017-icm-congress-photos/>

Photo credits: CAM, International Confederation of Midwives, MCI, Event Imaging @Joel Nadel



# HISTORICAL SIGNING OF CAM & NACM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

CAM held its Annual General Meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> in Toronto, just before the opening of the ICM Congress. This AGM was a historic moment in CAM's history, as CAM and NACM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU acknowledges and solidifies the collaborative and egalitarian way that NACM and CAM work together, articulates the terms and nature of our work together and commits us to mutually support and promote each other's visions and missions going forward.

During the AGM and the ICM Congress, CAM gave every member in attendance a silk scarf as a gift. The scarf represents the collaboration between NACM and CAM, and serves as a commitment to this relationship into the future. It commemorates the signing of the MOU between the two organizations that recognizes and promotes NACM as the national voice and leading authority on Indigenous midwifery and Indigenous reproductive health. The scarf is also a small token of appreciation to members for all the work they do as midwives, educators, regulators, and students.

The scarf is available for sale on the CAM website at <https://canadianmidwives.org/product/scarf/>.

Watch video excerpt of the MOU signing ceremony: <https://www.facebook.com/SagesFemmesQc/videos/1251407694968856/>



**"I WANT TO SAY THAT THIS IS A VERY HISTORIC MOMENT FOR CAM. WE HAVE GIVEN A SCARF TO EVERY MIDWIFE MEMBER OF CAM AND NACM WHO IS PRESENT AT THIS IMPORTANT TIME IN THE HISTORY OF MIDWIFERY IN CANADA. THIS SCARF IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE COMMITMENT TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CAM AND NACM. IT'S VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT THE NACM LOGO IS AT THE CENTER OF THIS SCARF, WITH THE CAM LOGO SURROUNDING IT."**

**- KATRINA KILROY, CAM PRESIDENT**



**"I JUST WANT TO LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT WE ARE THE FIRST COUNTRY OUT OF EVERYONE HERE, OUT OF EVERYONE IN THE WORLD, OUT OF EVERYONE AT ICM, TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS. THIS IS EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT, AND IT'S SIGNIFICANT THAT IT'S HAPPENING HERE, AT ICM. WEAR YOUR SCARVES PROUDLY, EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS, AND LET THE WORLD KNOW."**

**- EVELYN GEORGE, NACM CO-CHAIR**



CAM tried a new format for its Annual Report: a poster! One side of the poster shows a map of Canada that indicates how many midwives work in each province and territory, how many births are with midwives, etc. The other side of the poster shows CAM's year of activities in pictures and short texts. The map side of the poster makes a great educational piece to hang in clinics, hospitals, birth centres, etc. If you would like a copy of the poster, you can order one through the CAM website or download the information <https://canadianmidwives.org/product/annual-report-poster>

# 828 MILLION DOLLARS FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH

## HEALTH MINISTER JANE PHILPOTT ADDRESSES MIDWIVES AT ICM CONGRESS

Speaking to the thousands of midwives attending Toronto's 31<sup>st</sup> Triennial ICM Congress, Canada's then Minister of Health, Jane Philpott, announced the federal government's plan to invest 828 million dollars in Indigenous health as well as an additional 83 million dollars specifically for Indigenous maternal and child health of which 6 million dollars will go towards 'culturally safe midwifery expansion in communities'.

Minister Philpott defined herself as a "champion for healthy birthing" and an "advocate for midwives", and declared that she firmly believes that the work midwives do is not only essential to supporting babies, mothers and families in their birthing experience, but that it *"strengthens and empowers entire communities"*.

**"YOU [MIDWIVES] ARE WITH WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES AT ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL TIMES OF THEIR LIVES, AND WHAT YOU GIVE TO THOSE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN, THEY WILL THEN GIVE ON: CARE AND COMPASSION."**

**– MINISTER JANE PHILPOTT**

Minister Philpott stated that there exists a shortage of midwives across Canada and that the growth of midwifery in Canada should be encouraged.

### Midwifery and Canada's Indigenous Peoples

Minister Philpott declared that the federal government's renewed relationship with Indigenous Peoples of Canada is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's top priority. As part of her job, Minister Philpott is working with the provinces and territories to try to find ways to support midwifery access for First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Minister Philpott's recent visit to remote communities such as Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and Northern Manitoba led to the recent implementation of a new policy in the First Nations Inuit health branch to cover the cost for a family member to accompany women that have to leave their communities to give birth. In some areas, such as Nunavut, two thirds of women must leave home to give birth. Up until recently, these women had to travel alone unless there was a medical reason why they required an escort.



Minister Jane Philpott met privately with NACM and CAM representatives prior to speaking at ICM to discuss future collaborations.

**"INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES NEED TO HEAR THE CRIES OF BIRTH, NOT JUST THE CRIES OF DEATH. (...) NO WOMAN SHOULD EVER HAVE TO LEAVE HER HOME COMMUNITY TO GIVE BIRTH ALONE."**

**– MINISTER JANE PHILPOTT**

Minister Philpott recognized the fact that Indigenous midwives have the capacity to draw from a rich tradition of language, knowledge and cultural practices, adding that midwifery care that brings birth back home is a "pathway that improves health and supports the regeneration of strong families". She is convinced that focussing interventions on birth and early childhood is the best way to respond to the present epidemic of overdose deaths and suicides amongst young people in Canada's Indigenous communities. Minister Philpott said she planned to work with elders, community members and partners such as the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM) to develop long-term solutions that would fit in the framework of health programs in Indigenous communities.



**Access the video montage** of Minister Jane Philpott's speech, click here: <https://canadianmidwives.org/2017/07/31/videos-toronto-2017-icm-congress/>

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: MIDWIVES ARE INSTRUMENTAL IN STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS

## CELINA CAESAR-CHAVANNES SPEAKS TO MIDWIVES AT ICM CONGRESS

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes, announced to ICM 2017 attendees from around the world that Canada has committed 650 million dollars to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights over the next three years and that the Canadian government will invest an additional 100 million dollars over five years to respond to the needs of local women's organizations in developing countries. Within five years, investments and programs that specifically target gender equality and the empowerment of women will represent 15% of Canada's bilateral development assistance.

The Canadian government recently announced 100 million dollars in funding dedicated to small and medium-sized Canadian organizations. It also launched a new feminist assistance policy that puts empowerment of women and girls at the heart of its development goals. In line with this new policy, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that Canada will host the 2019 Women Deliver conference in Vancouver.

Caesar-Chavannes spoke to the need to support access to a full range of reproductive and sexual health services within Canada, including family planning, contraceptives, comprehensive sexuality education, and safe and legal abortions and post-abortion care. Caesar-Chavannes also made it clear that this means supporting midwives, emphasizing that they invariably play a key role in "delivering on all of these fronts".

**"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, LET ME BE CLEAR. 'YOU' [MIDWIVES] ARE INSTRUMENTAL IN STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND PROVIDING TRAINING. 'YOU' ARE VERY DELIBERATE IN ASSURING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND THEIR INFANT DURING, AFTER, AND BEFORE BIRTH, AND 'YOU' ARE INVALUABLE IN MAKING SURE THAT WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL."**

**- CELINA CAESAR-CHAVANNES**



Celina Caesar-Chavannes speaks to the 4200 delegates at the 2017 ICM Congress.



Caesar-Chavannes with NACM co-chair Evelyn George, CAM President Katrina Kilroy and CAM Vice President Nathalie Pambrun.

Caesar-Chavannes also spoke about the Strengthening Midwifery Services in South Sudan project, funded by the Government of Canada and others. The project aims to train 850 health workers - including 650 midwives - at six national training institutes that deliver midwifery and nursing education. The project is also working to strengthen the South Sudan Nurses and Midwives Association which gives South-Sudanese midwives a voice as well as a chance to share their knowledge and best practices by engaging in national and international networks. "The fact that this initiative is flourishing in one of the world's most fragile states is a tribute to the expertise and the commitment of the partners of the project, the United Nations Population Fund, and the Canadian Association of Midwives," said Caesar-Chavannes.

**Access the video montage** of Celina Casesar-Chavannes speech, click here: <https://canadianmidwives.org/2017/07/31/videos-toronto-2017-icm-congress/>





# TORONTO ICM CONGRESS





# THANK-YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!





## ICM FUND: MEET AND GREET AT THE TORONTO BIRTH CENTRE

More than 50 midwives met at the Toronto Birth Centre during the ICM Congress for an intimate gathering in celebration of the Deliver Midwives to ICM Initiative. On hand were Canadian midwives and supporters from some of the 18 different midwifery practices or groups across Canada who worked to raise funds, along with representatives from event sponsor HIROC, and the more than 20 midwives who were funded to attend the 2017 ICM Congress.

The recipients, midwives from Uruguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Mexico, and New Zealand, to name a few, were warmly greeted by their Canadian counterparts. Together they discussed, laughed and shared. There were heartfelt exchanges between Indigenous midwives from Canada and those of countries such as New Zealand, Australia and Peru.

Twenty-six year old midwife Estefani Troisi Benitez flew to Toronto from Montevideo in Uruguay to participate in the conference. "Being here is an amazing experience. It changed my point of view about midwifery and associations. Meeting people from other countries, I can see how they learn from each other and how they respect each other and how they helped us to come here. This is amazing. It moves my heart."

Estefani is planning to bring back materials and insights to share with her friends and colleagues in Uruguay. "I will bring back materials but also experience, and the motivation to try to improve midwifery, to improve the union of midwives in Uruguay."

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, April-Ann Wilson has been a midwife for five years. Through her presence at the ICM Congress, she hopes to learn techniques that she can take back to her country. "I want to be able to empower women to want more, from their lives, for their children (...) Without the Canadian association, I may not have been able to make it here, and I'm so grateful to be able to fulfill that dream."



Official ICM fund sponsor, HIROC's Philip DeSouza and Joanna Noble were on hand to meet midwife recipients.



Ontario midwives at ICM Fund reception: Ruby Van Vliet (Midwives Collective of Toronto), Simone Rosenberg, (Midwives' Clinic of East York-Don Mills), and Nimerta Dhami (Midwives Collective of Toronto).



Peruvian midwives Stefany Salvador and Brenda Teresa Rodriguez Lopez are pleased to have benefited from CAM's fundraising initiative.



Ethiopian EMWA midwives Weyitu Daniel and Azeb Zeleke embrace after sharing with fellow midwives at the ICM Fund reception.





# MARCH FOR MORE MIDWIVES





# NEWLY ELECTED ICM PRESIDENT FRANKA CADÉE

**"ALL MIDWIVES HERE KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO BREATHE AND WHEN IT'S TIME TO PUSH. THIS IS OUR TIME TO PUSH!"**

Franka Cadée, the new President of the International Confederation of Midwives closed the 31<sup>st</sup> Triennial Congress by addressing midwives from around the world with the message that it is time to "humanize midwifery care, together".

After thanking departing President, Frances Day-Stirk, for her tremendous work, newly elected President Franka Cadée spoke to a crowd of attentive midwives from around the world to say that the time has come for a paradigm shift, from a focus on safety to a focus on humility, adding that the strategic directions for the next Triennial as determined by the ICM Council will focus on quality, equity and leadership.

"I am so proud to be a midwife, because I've come to understand the power of midwifery for the well-being of women worldwide.

I believe in midwives for a healthier future.

I love midwifery because I know that when midwives work in partnership with women and their families, they're empowered to make informed decisions about what they need to have respectful, safe and fulfilling births. Overwhelming evidence supports the key role of midwives to attain this. The focus on safety has not sufficiently reduced maternal mortality or morbidity and the world over, women still pay the price for care that is either too little, too late or too much too soon. I would like for us to stand together for humane, compassionate care, and this will encompass safety."



We are proud to announce that CAM's Director of Global Program Operations, Emmanuelle Hébert, has been elected to represent the Americas on the new ICM Board 2017-2020.



From left to right: Sally Pairman (Chief Executive), Mary Kirk (Vice President), Ingela Wiklund (Treasurer), Franka Cadée (President), Serena Debonnet (Europe), Emi Nurjasmí Indomo (Asia Pacific), Rita Borg-Xuereb (Europe), Sandra Oyarzo Torres (Americas), Hatsumi Taniguchi (Asia Pacific), Rafat Jan (Asia Pacific), Emmanuelle Hébert (Americas), Jemima Dennis-Antwi (Africa), Absent from photo: Dicko Fatoumata S Maiga (Africa), Trude Thommesen (Europe)



## THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COUNCIL OF MIDWIVES (NACM):

# STRONG PRESENCE THROUGHOUT ICM CONGRESS

## MEETING WITH MINISTER PHILPOTT



NACM Co-chairs, Evelyn George and Melissa Brown, were joined by CAM President Katrina Kilroy and Executive Director Tonia Occhionero, to meet with then Health Minister Jane Philpott at ICM on Monday June 20, where she made a commitment of \$6 million for Indigenous midwifery. The meeting was the fruition of many meetings with representatives of Health Canada. NACM has been asked to participate on a task team to advise FNIHB on how to make midwifery more accessible on the ground within the continuum of services it offers for healthy pregnancy and birthing.

## ADVOCACY IN OTTAWA PAYS OFF



On April 10, representatives of NACM and CAM travelled to Ottawa to meet with federal officials. CAM and NACM made joint presentations to delegates from the Ministry of Health and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. The result was a shout out to midwifery and to NACM by then Health Minister Jane Philpott on **International Day of the Midwife**, followed by an invitation to NACM to participate on a national task team charged with looking at how to invest the \$6 million the federal minister set aside for Indigenous midwifery.

Ellen Blais will continue to be NACM's Government Relations liaison and share her experience and knowledge on the recently struck NACM Government Relations Committee. She is joined by NACM Co-Chair Melissa Brown, as a second representative on the FNIH task team on Indigenous Midwifery.

NACM has struck a Government Relations Committee to develop its position on the task team and set priorities with respect to government relations in general. NACM appreciates the continued support and expertise of CAM with respect to this exciting time!

## BRINGING BIRTH HOME



This year Save the Children Canada is supporting NACM to complete another project with the overarching goal of increasing access to Indigenous midwifery to improve the health of Indigenous babies, families and communities.

The project will leverage the strengths of NACM's cross-Canada network of Indigenous midwives to take meaningful steps toward bringing birth back to Indigenous communities and supporting improved outcomes.

It includes activities that will have immediate benefits for families and communities, like workshops and community advocacy; and longer-range benefits through activities such as policy advocacy. More specifically, the project will support workshops delivered by midwives and student midwives on reproductive and sexual health, rites of passage, and culturally based pre- and post-natal education in up to 10 communities, the dissemination of cultural knowledge booklets created last year, the creation of a series of professional development webinars by and for Indigenous midwives, the development of a long-awaited mentorship program, and outreach and support to four communities wishing to take the first or next step towards having midwifery services available to their populations.

This one year initiative was designed with a view to scaling up and increasing NACM's reach in future years as more partners become engaged in bringing Indigenous midwifery back to Indigenous communities.

# CAM GLOBAL PROJECTS WELL REPRESENTED

For CAM's Global team, the ICM Congress was a wonderful opportunity to meet with project partners. As well, returning volunteers and consultants deeply appreciated being able to spend time with midwife counterparts from South Sudan, Ethiopia, Benin, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Canadian midwives also took this opportunity to meet with midwives from countries they will be traveling to in the near future.

It was great to have with us representatives from the four midwifery associations that work on the Midwives Save Lives (MSL) project. Canadian midwives who participated in the ICM Congress and shared with midwives from many countries will now be able to better appreciate CAM's international mission. The sense of solidarity that resulted from this event will have served to help CAM members realize that they share a common cause with midwives from around the world.



Esperance Fundira (UNFPA SS Country Representative), Tonia Occhionero (CAM Executive Director), Katrina Kilroy (CAM President), Dr. Natalia Kanem (Acting Executive Director UNFPA), Emmanuelle Hebert (CAM Director Global Program), Angela Mione (Global Affairs Canada, Senior Program Manager, South Sudan),



Ethiopian midwives proudly hold the Ethiopian Midwives Association banner during the March for More Midwives. Photo: Yezabnesh Adissu, (President EMwA), Azeb Zeleke, (Vice President EMwA), Weyitu Daniel, (Board Member and retired midwife EMwA), Dawit Hailu, (MSL Project Coordinator at EMwA)



Numerous South to South collaborations between midwives from Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Benin took place. Photo: Marcelle Totchenou (Board Member and midwife ASFB), Thethe Lukusa (Board Member and midwife SCOSAF, DRC), Laurence Monteiro (President ASFB, Benin), Ambrocckha Kabeya (President SCOSAF, DRC), Gaba Ines (Midwife ASFB), and Coco Bernadette (Board Member and midwife ASFB)



CAM and the UNFPA hosted a reception to highlight the Strengthening Midwifery Services in South Sudan project. Speakers included CAM President Katrina Kilroy, Dr. Natalia Kanem (Acting Executive Director UNFPA), Dr. Alexander Dimiti, (Director General, Directorate of Reproductive Health, Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan), Angela Mione (Global Affairs Canada), Sake Jemelia Bada (President of South Sudan Nurses and Midwives Association) and Joseph Deng, (NUNV Midwife South Sudan). Photo: CAM President Katrina Kilroy addresses a packed room while Sake Jemelia Bada, SSNAMA President looks on. On screen in photo: Minister of International Development Marie-Claude Bibeau visiting Juba on June 19th, 2017.



*Come visit Canada's Capital Region!*



# FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAM CONFERENCE AND EXHIBIT

October  
17-19 **2018**

 **CAM ACSF**  
Canadian Association of Midwives  
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